

REMARKS

In the non-final office action mailed January 11, 1007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-23. Applicants have canceled claims 2-3 and 16-22; amended claims 1, 4-15 and 23; and added new claims 24-31. Claims 1, 4-15 and 23-31 are pending, and Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11, 13-15 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. As indicated above, claims 2-3 have been canceled; claims 1, 4-5, 11 and 13-15 have been amended to address the § 112 rejections. Accordingly, Applicants request that the § 112 rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to address the § 101 rejections. Accordingly, Applicants request that the § 101 rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 10 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,055,540 ("Snow"). Applicants have amended independent claim 1; as indicated above, dependent claims 4, 7 and 10 have also been amended; and claims 2-3 and 17-18 have been canceled.

Applicants submit that amended independent claim 1 is patentable over Snow, as are the corresponding dependent claims. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including, for example, at page 15, lines 9-23; page 40, lines 4-10; in FIGS. 4, 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 10; and in the originally filed claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a computer program product that generates on a display device a graphical user interface (GUI) that comprises, *inter alia*, a categorization area that displays a categorization scheme having a plurality of hierarchical categories, wherein the categorization area displays one category as active; and a tabbed information panel comprising at least a first tabbed viewset and a second tabbed viewset, wherein the first tabbed viewset comprises user input fields for receiving input associated with a first aspect of the active category and the second tabbed viewset comprises user input fields for receiving input associated with a second, different aspect of the active category.

Snow generally describes “a method and apparatus for creating a class hierarchy containing categories for classification of documents.” (Snow, col. 1, lines 35-37). Snow indicates that a class hierarchy can be “user defined” (See Snow, col. 2, line 32), and illustrates a method that includes “displaying category hierarchy” (Snow, FIG. 2, element 22) and processing commands associated with editing the category hierarchy (See Snow, FIG. 2, elements 28 and 32 and FIGS. 3-4). Snow does not describe in any detail a GUI for displaying the category hierarchy or for receiving commands to edit the same.

Snow does not anticipate amended independent claim 1. For example, Snow does not describe or suggest a GUI comprising a categorization area that displays one category as active. As another example, Snow does not describe or suggest a GUI having a categorization area and a tabbed information panel comprising at least a first tabbed viewset and a second tabbed viewset. As another example, Snow does not describe or suggest user-input fields in a first tabbed viewset for receiving input associated with a first aspect of an active category, and user-input fields in a second tabbed viewset for receiving input associated with a second, different aspect of the active category.

Snow also does not render amended independent claim 1 obvious. In particular, as indicated above, Snow does not describe in any detail a GUI for displaying the category hierarchy or for receiving commands to edit the same. In particular, Snow does not suggest the specific GUI elements and arrangement of those elements that are recited in amended independent claim 1. Moreover, Snow does not contemplate the advantages provided by

Applicants' novel GUI, which include, for example, "providing a convenient, integrated tool for designing and maintaining hierarchal categorization schemes, and for defining links from categories to stored business objects [in a manner that] promotes effective utilization of categorization schemes by providing an easy-to-use interface that an enterprise can self-maintain and adapt over time as business processes evolve." (Originally filed specification at p. 8, lines 14-20).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons outline above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 1 and the corresponding dependent claims 4-15 are patentable over Snow as ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on Snow.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in combination with U.S. Patent 6,941,304 ("Gainey") and claims 5-6, 8-9, 11-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snow in combination with various other references. Applicants have canceled claims 16, 19 and 20-22 and amended independent claim 23. Claims 5-6, 8-9 and 11-15 depend from claim 1 and are accordingly patentable for at least the reasons provided above with reference to claim 1.

Applicants submit that amended independent claim 23 is patentable over Snow and Gainey, taken either alone or in combination. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including, for example, at page 15, lines 9-23; page 40, lines 4-10; in FIGS. 4, 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 10; and in the originally filed claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to recite a computer program product that generates on a display device a graphical user interface (GUI) that comprises, *inter alia*, a categorization area, and a linking area that displays a tabbed information panel comprising at least a first tabbed viewset and a second tabbed viewset, wherein the first tabbed viewset comprises a user input field for receiving input associated with a first aspect of an active

category in the categorization area and the second tabbed viewset comprises a user input field for receiving input associated with a second, different aspect of the active category.

As described above, Snow generally describes “a method and apparatus for creating a class hierarchy containing categories for classification of documents,” (Snow, col. 1, lines 35-37), but does not describe in any detail a GUI for displaying the category hierarchy or for receiving commands to edit the same. Gainey generally describes “an enterprise email management system that streamlines the handling of large volumes of incoming email messages.” (Gainey, col. 1, lines 15-17). Gainey illustrates a number of GUIs, including “a graphical user interface for entering a mail receiver rule,” “a graphical user interface for entering a category,” “a graphical user interface for configuring the email message queue parameters,” “a graphical user interface for entering and modifying enterprise email system user parameters,” “the main enterprise email user display screen,” “a dialog box for entering an address of a recipient when routing, collaborating, forwarding & tracking, or redirecting a message,” and “a graphical user interface for creating a response message for an incoming message.” (Gainey, col. 2, lines 29-49, and corresponding FIGS. 2A, 2B, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8).

The combination of Snow and Gainey does not render obvious amended independent claim 23. For example, the combination of Snow and Gainey does not describe or suggest a GUI having a categorization area and a linking area, where the linking area includes a tabbed information panel comprising at least a first tabbed viewset and a second tabbed viewset. As another example, the combination of Snow and Gainey does not describe or suggest a user-input field in a first tabbed viewset for receiving input associated with a first aspect of an active category in the categorization area, and a user-input field in a second tabbed viewset for receiving input associated with a second, different aspect of the active category.

Moreover, the combination of Snow and Gainey does not provide the advantages provided by Applicants' novel GUI, which, as indicated above, include, for example, “providing a convenient, integrated tool for designing and maintaining hierarchal categorization schemes, and for defining links from categories to stored business objects [in a manner that] promotes effective utilization of categorization schemes by providing an easy-to-use interface that an

enterprise can self-maintain and adapt over time as business processes evolve.” (Originally filed specification at p. 8, lines 14-20).

Accordingly, for at least the reasons outline above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 23 is patentable over the combination of Snow and Gainey and ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on Snow and Gainey. As indicated above, claims 5-6, 8-9 and 11-15 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reasons provided above with reference to claim 1.

New claims

Applicant has added new claims 24-31, which also depend from claim 1. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the originally filed specification, including, for example, at page 15, lines 9-23; page 40, lines 4-10; in FIGS. 4, 5A, 5B, 6, 7, 8, 9A, 10; and in the originally filed claims.

Applicants submit that the new claims are patentable for at least the reasons provided with reference to claim 1, and Applicants request that the Examiner allow new claims 24-31.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1, 4-15 and 23-31 are in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner allow them.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants note that the Examiner did not initial reference AB, which was submitted on a PTO Form 1449 that accompanied an Information Disclosure Statement filed with the

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Serial No. : 10/822,495
Filed : April 12, 2004
Page : 13 of 13

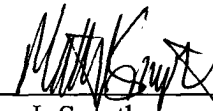
Attorney's Docket No.: 13906-168001 /2004P00095 US

Application on April 12, 2004. Applicants' records show that the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application complied with 37 CFR 1.97 and therefore request that the Examiner initial reference AB and return the initialed form with the next Office communication. Applicants also filed a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, dated January 23, 2007 (after the mailing of the present Office Action), and Applicants request that the Examiner also consider the references included therein, initial the corresponding PTO Form 1449, and also return the initialed form with the next Office communication.

Applicants do not believe any fees are due with this Reply. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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